

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /058 W

-----141636Z 044474 /44

O R 141614Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5493

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, TS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RETURNS

REF:TUNIS 276

1. AS ANNOUNCED JANUARY 12, PRESIDENT HABIB BOURGUIBA RETURNED TO TUNIS AT MID-DAY JANUARY 14 FROM HIS THREE MONTH REST CURE IN GENEVA. HE WAS WELCOMED AT THE AIRPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERSHIP, THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND A LARGE GROUP OF WELL WISHERS. HE EMERGED FROM THE TUNIS AIR BEOING 727 "MONASTIR" WITH PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA AT HIS SIDE AND RAISED NOUIRA'S ARM WITH IS TO GREET THE CROWD. AFTER RECEIVING THE HONORS OF CHIEF OF STATE, BOURGUIBA GAVE A SHORT STATEMENT TO THE DOMESTIC PRESS IN ARABIC INSIDE THE AIRPORT TERMINAL. THWS STATEMENT WAS BROADCAST DIRECTLY OVER TUNIS RADIO IN ARABIC AND TRANSLATED FOR THE RTT FRENCH SERVICE.

2. BOURGUIBA TOLD THE NATION THAT HE WAS STILL ILL, BUT HE COULD NOT AVOID COMING BACK TO "HIS CHILDREN AND HIS
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COUNTRY." HE SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS IN SWITZERLAND AND THE UNITED STATES (IN 1971) HIS DOCTORS HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS ON A "ONE-WAY TICKET," I.E., THAT HE WOULD NOT RETURN TO TUNISIA.THEY HAD WARNED HIM TO REMAIN QUIET AND REST AND NOT TO WORK ANY MORE. NOW, SAID BOURGUIBA, HE WAS OVER 70 YEARS OLD AND MUST REST. HIS DOCTORS HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE MUST LET THE HOUNGER MEN WHOM HE HAD TRAINED

RUN THE COUNTRY, AND HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED HEDI NOUIRA AS A MAN WHO HAS THE QUALITIES TO DIRECT TUNISIA'S DESTINIES. BOURGUIBA'S VOICE WAS WEAK AND HE HAD DIFFICULTY EXPRESSING HIMSELF. HIS IMPROMPTU DELIVERY WAS EMOTIONAL, AND HE CRIED DURING THE STATEMENT.

3. AFTER THE AIRPORT STATEMENT, BOURGUIBA WENT DIRECTLY BY CAR TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN CARTHAGE.

4. TUNISIAN WHO HEARD BOURGUIBA'S STATEMENT WERE STUNNED.
KING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEALTH, CHIEF OF STATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770149/aaaabqtm.tel
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Litigation History:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RETURNS
TAGS: PINT, TS, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB)
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